THE DOOR TO THE GENTILES
Acts 10:1-17

None of us here if it weren't for <u>Acts 10</u> .

Apostles' initial understanding was that salvation to Jews and circumcised proselytes of <u>Judaism</u> only.

Couldn't come to Jesus as Lord and Savior unless circumcised and obedient to Law of Moses.

<u>Prejudice</u> prevented apostles from going to Gentiles to preach the gospel.

Acts 10:1-2 *Caesarea*: Gentile city and seat of Roman power

Cornelius: centurion--<u>noncommissioned</u> officer in command of 100 men.

Band... 300-600 Roman soldiers. Cohort or regimen. 555 infantry, 66 cavalry.

Roman legion--ten bands or cohorts of men (6000 plus men; 60 centurions).

Cornelius a seasoned veteran of war tactics. <u>Hardened</u> soldier.

1. Devout--Pious, sincere worshipper of God, genuine, not <u>fake</u> or plastic.

> Ie. Simeon Luke 2:25

> Ie. Ananias Acts 22:12

> Phillips: *If he did not yet know the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit certainly knew him and wrote him down as a devout, God-fearing man.*

2. Feared God--Deep and reverential <u>respect</u> for God. Fervent

3. Family man--Alongside his <u>household</u>.

> *With all his house*—everyone in household had same passion

4. Giving spirit-- *Alms:* acts of benevolence and charity. Loved to <u>give</u>!

5. Prayer Warrior--Loved to <u>pray</u>. Luke 18:1 1 Tim 2:8

> Andrew Murray: "*Prayer is the pulse of life; by it the doctor can tell what is the condition of the heart. The sin of prayerlessness is a proof for the ordinary Christian or minister that the life of God in the soul is in deadly sickness and weakness.*"

Acts 10:3 *9th hour*: Around <u>3</u> PM.

Acts 10:4 ***Come up for a memorial***: from Jewish sacrificial system. Prayers <u>ascend</u> up to God. Lev 2:16; Prayers and love gifts of Cornelius went up before God as acceptable sacrifice

Acts 10:5-6 Cornelius could not become born-again without proper understanding of <u>gospel</u>

> Wiersbe: *God sent an angel to instruct Cornelius and, in true military fashion, Cornelius immediately obeyed. But why send for Peter, who was thirty miles away in Joppa, when Philip the evangelist was already in Caesarea? (Acts 8:40) Because it was Peter, not Phillip, who had been given the "keys." God not only works at the right time, but He also works through the right servant; and both are essential.*

Acts 10:7 Two servants and a soldier.

Acts 10:8 *Declared all these things*: make known by <u>exposition</u>. Explained. John 1:18 ; God could've sent angels …. Chooses humans. Wanted Peter on hand to observe salvation of first Gentile, Cornelius.

Acts 10:9 *Sixth hour*: <u>Noon;</u> Peter retires to flat roof of friend's house to take a nap.

Acts 10:10 Overcome with intense <u>hunger</u>. *Trance*: displacement of mind. Daydream

> Phillips: *Peter was thinking about food. God used food as the basis for the vision that now fell upon him. Far from being put out by Peter's wandering thoughts He used them as the basis for the revelation now to be made to him.*

Acts 10:11-12 Compare Noah's ark …clean and unclean. Shock to Peter.

Sheet full of clean and <u>unclean</u> animals.

Lev 20:25-26   …<mark>*and have severed you from other people*</mark>… Purpose: <u>separation</u>!

Acts 10:13 Get up Peter … smorgasbord of delectable meats.

Acts 10:14 Standard of not eating unclean meats closely attached to view of <u>God</u>, Law, separation,, Judaism, Gentiles

His ingrained religious prejudice, reinforced by the clear commands of biblical ritual law, strengthened by years of rabbinical teaching and tradition, and enforced by lifelong practice, warred against the clear <u>demand</u> of the vision.

Acts 10:15 *Common*: make profane, defile, pollute, <u>unclean</u>.

Acts 10:16 God repeated vision <u>three</u> times ; Peter greatly disturbed. Confused!

> Significance:

>> 1. Negative—abolishing OT dietary regulations
>> 2. Positive—embracing both <u>Gentiles</u> (unclean animals), and Jews (clean animals) into one body.

Acts 10:17 God's timing—<u>perfect</u>!

Peter is about to make a life-changing decision.

Men at the door…Cornelius… finally, Peter gets it… look at

Acts 10:34-43

So what?

Nothing unclean or unclean.

Ground level at foot of <u>cross</u>